

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02749 141615Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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IO-10 EUR-12 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2749

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 2749

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG US MIL

SUBJECT: PRESS CONTINUES REACT TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

REF: CAIRO 2714

FROM MAESTRONE

1. FOLLOWING UP ON PREVIOUS DAYS'S FRONT PAGE REPORTS THERE WERE EDITORIALS IN BOTH AL AHAM AND AL AKHBAR MAR 14 ON REPORT OF HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST. MAIN AHAM EDITORIAL SAID SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, "WHICH SUPPORTED EVENHANDED POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST, PROVES THAT ARAB INFORMATION MEDIA ARE CAPABLE OF CORRECTING MISCONCEPTIONS WHICH PREVIOUSLY APPEARED BEYOND CHANGE. PAST DIFFICULTY IN CHANGING MISCONCEPTIONS WASNOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ARAB INFORMATION MEDIA BUT TO DOMINATION
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02749 141615Z

OF AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS BY ZIONIST CIRCLES." EDITORIAL CON-

TINUES "MANY AMERICAN LEGISLATORS HAVE VISITED MIDDLE EAST RECENTLY ON FACTFINDING MISSIONS IN WHICH THEY HAVE HAD WIDE CONTACTS WITH OFFICIALS NOT ONLY IN ISRAEL BUT ALSOIN THE ARAB WORLD. THESE VISITS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL IN REDEFINING THESE LEGISLATORS' ATTITUDES AND PLACING THEM ON A MORE OBJECTIVE BASIS. VISITS HAVE REFUTED PREMISE THAT ALL PREJUDICES ARE DEEPLY ROOTED. OCT WAR AND RISE OF ARAB VOICES AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL HAVE HAD IMPACT ON SITUATION".

2. IN A FURTHER COLUMN IN AHRAH BY NEWLY APPOINTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALI HAMDI AL GAMMAL, REPORT WAS DESCRIBED AS REFLECTING A BIG CHANGE IN AMERICA'S POLICY IN THE AREA. GAMMAL CALLED FOR AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THOSE IN AMERICAN WHO ARE NOW BEGINNING TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT ARAB RIGHTS.

3. AL AKHBAR EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT "REPORT PRESAGES A WIND OF CHANGES IN CONGRESS. FORMERLY ARMS AID TO ISRAEL PASSED AS A MATTER OF COURSE ON VERY GENEROUS TERMS, WITH CONGRESSMEN VYING WITH EACH OTHER TO OUTDO THEMSELVES IN OFFERING MORE AND MORE TO ISRAELI WAR MACHINE. A SHIFT HAS COME ABOUT GRADUALLY IN FACE OF STIFF ZIONIST OPPOSITION, A RESULT OF RESURGENCE IN ARAB ECONOMIC AND MILITARY POWER AFTER OCTOBER WAR. PREMISE THAT ISRAEL WAS WATCHDOG GUARDING AMERICAN INTERESTS HAS BEEN NEGATED SINCE OCT WAR IMPRESSED UPON AMERICANS ISRAEL HARDLY CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF MUCH LESS OVERSEEING US INTERESTS... ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN WEAKENED POLITICALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY ON WORLD AND REGIONAL LEVELS AND NOW THERE ARE INTERNAL DIVISIONS WHICH HAVE COME TO THE SURFACE". EDITORIAL ADDS "CHANGE IN AMERICAN ATTITUDES HAS COME ABOUT THROUGH MOUNTING ARAB STRENGTH ON THE ONE HAND AND GRADUAL WEAKENING OF ISRAELI POSITION ON OTHER".
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